

A photograph of a child's room. In the foreground, there is a bed with a light green duvet and a matching pillow. To the right of the bed is a small wooden bedside table with a bowl of fruit and a small box on it. A window with multiple panes is visible in the background, with grey curtains partially drawn. A door is visible on the right side of the frame. The walls are a light beige color.

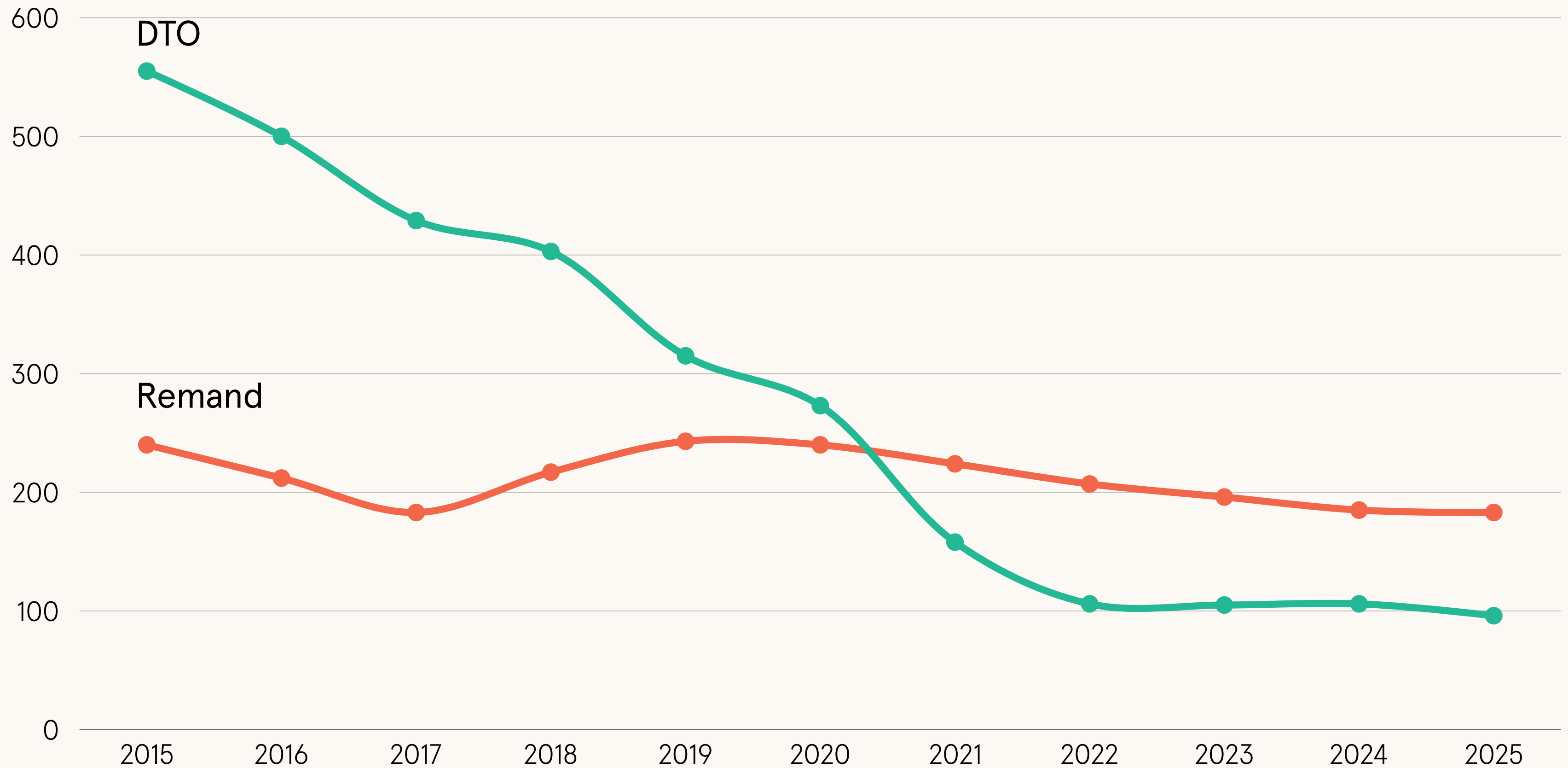
Launch of the London Child Remand Project

Trends in child remand in England and Wales

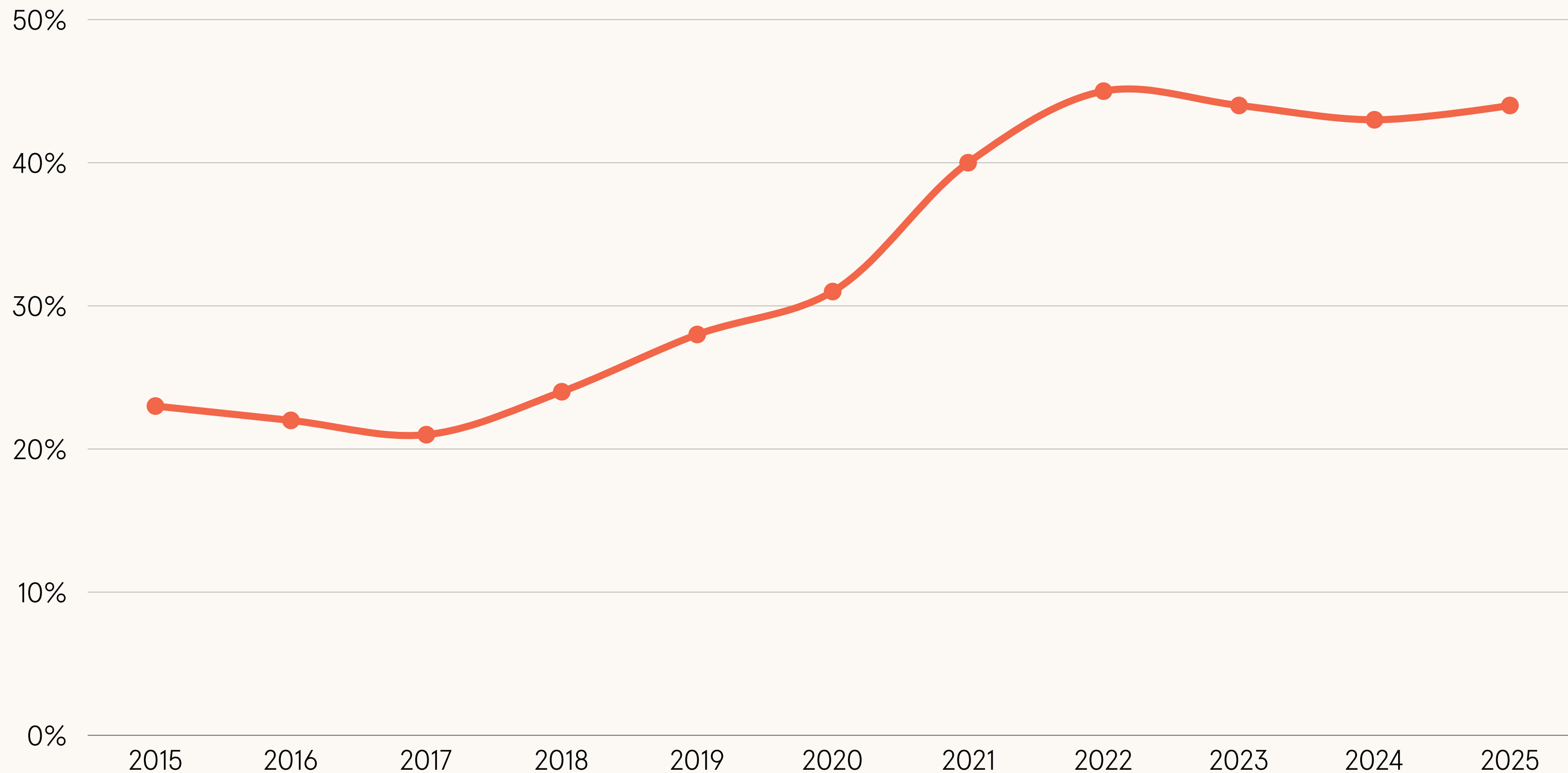
Penelope Gibbs



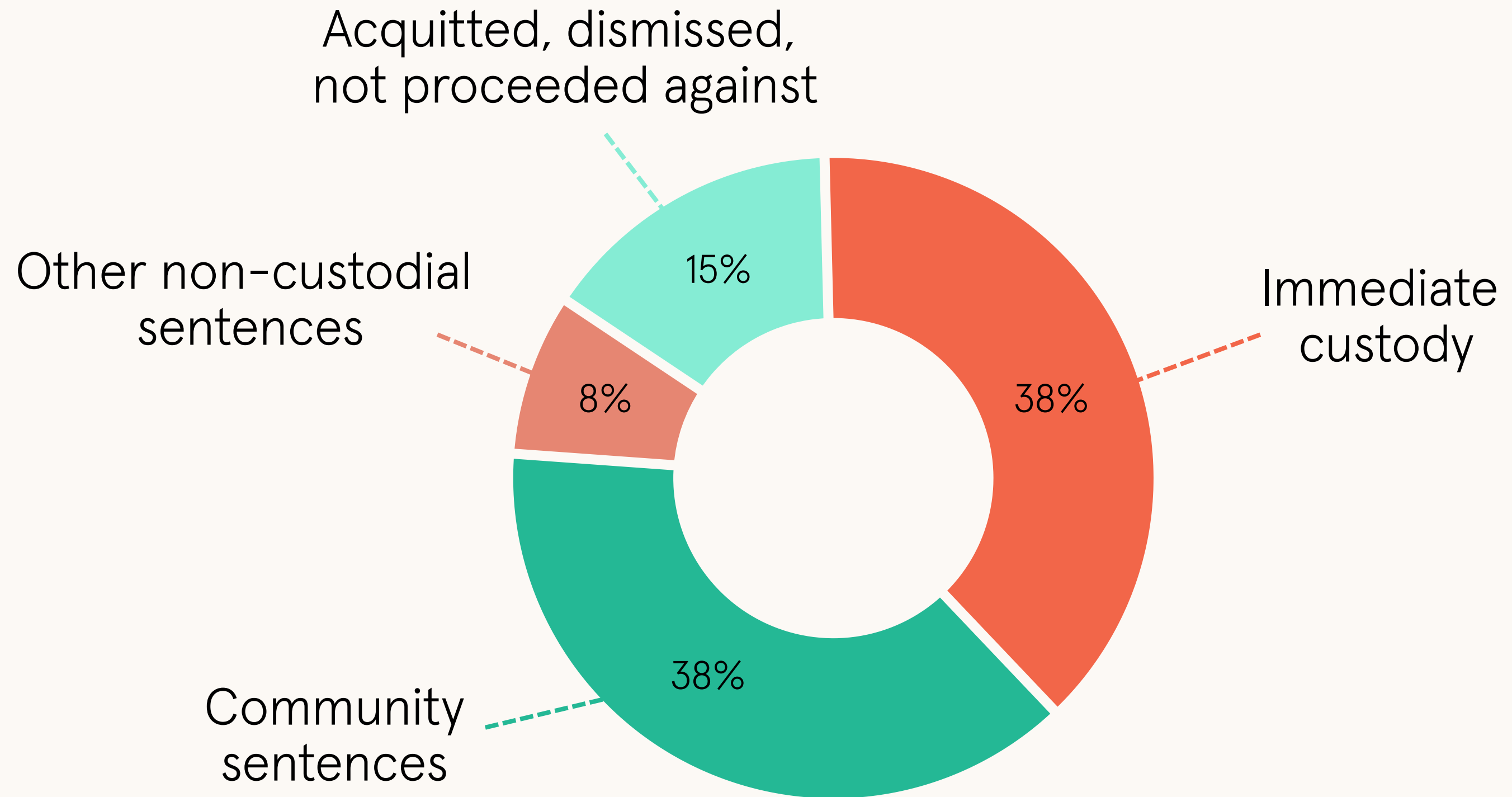
Child custodial population



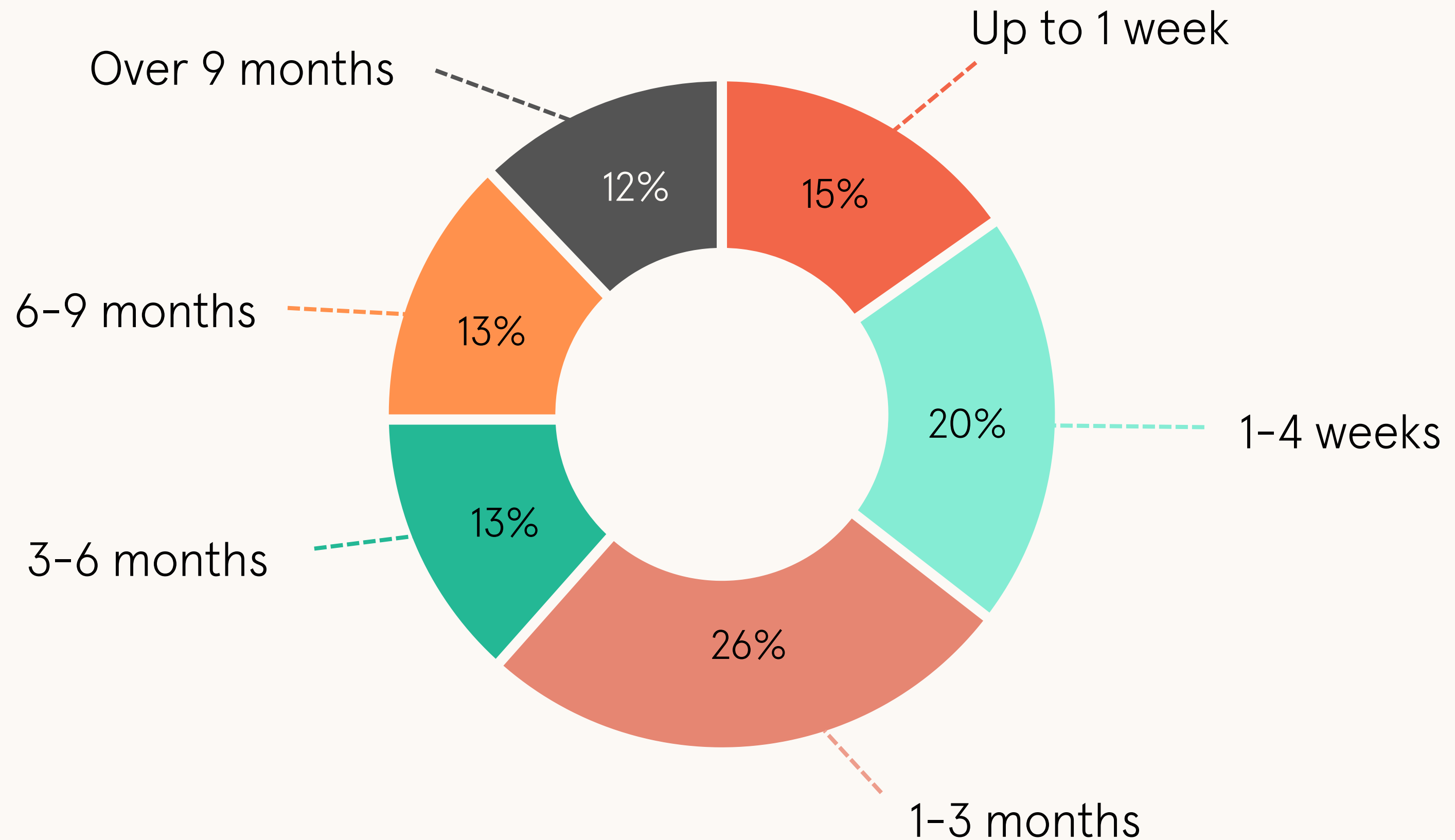
Proportion of children in custody who are on remand



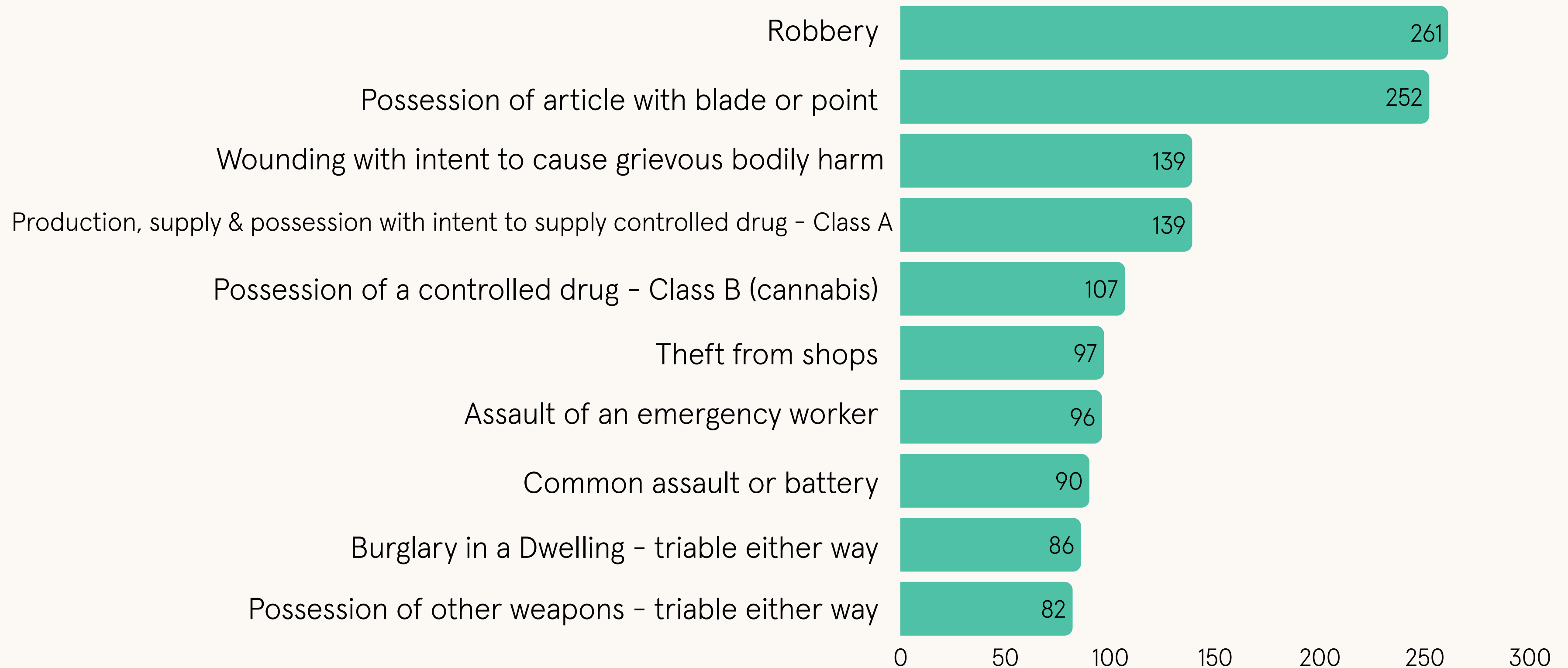
Outcome of remand y/e March 2025



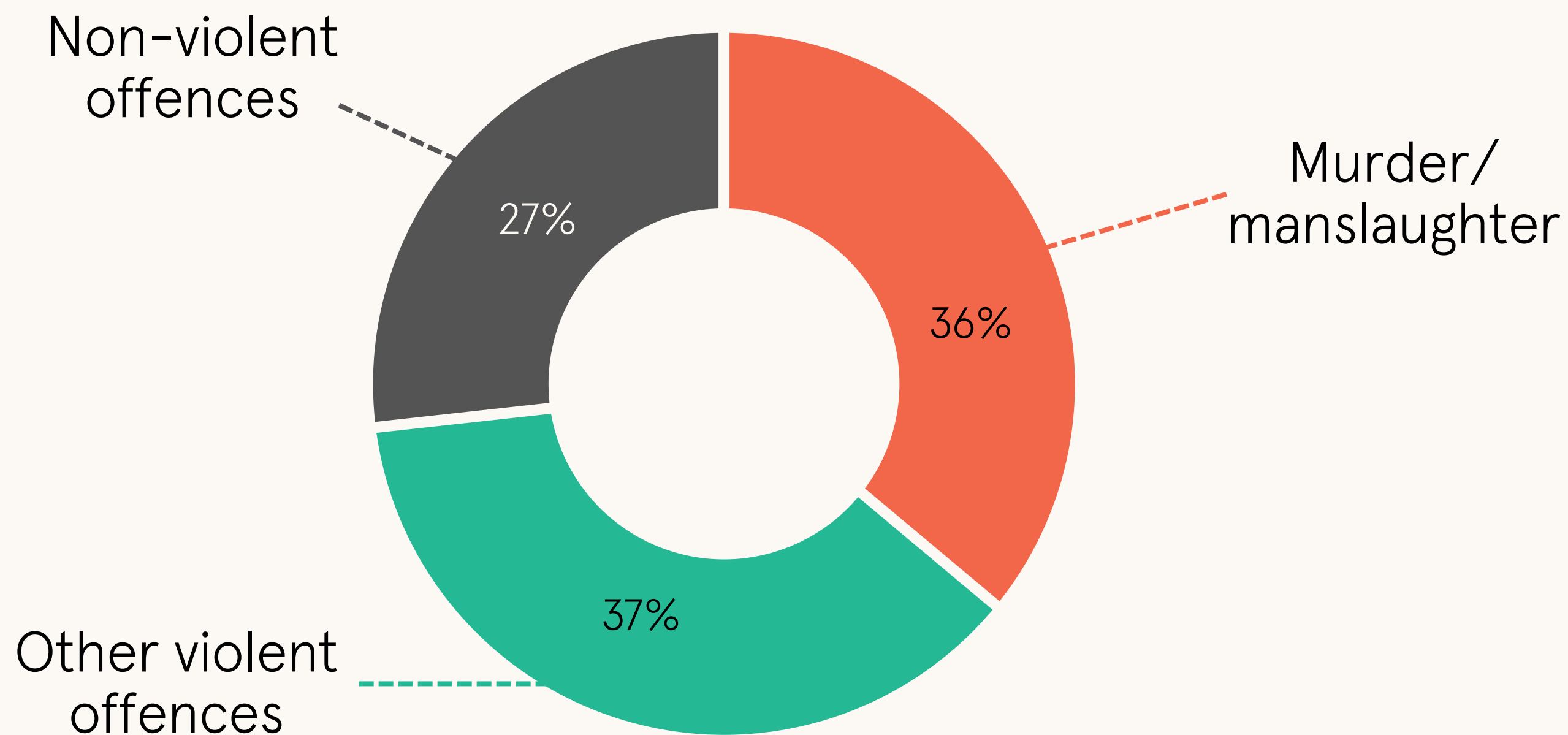
Length of remand y/e March 2025



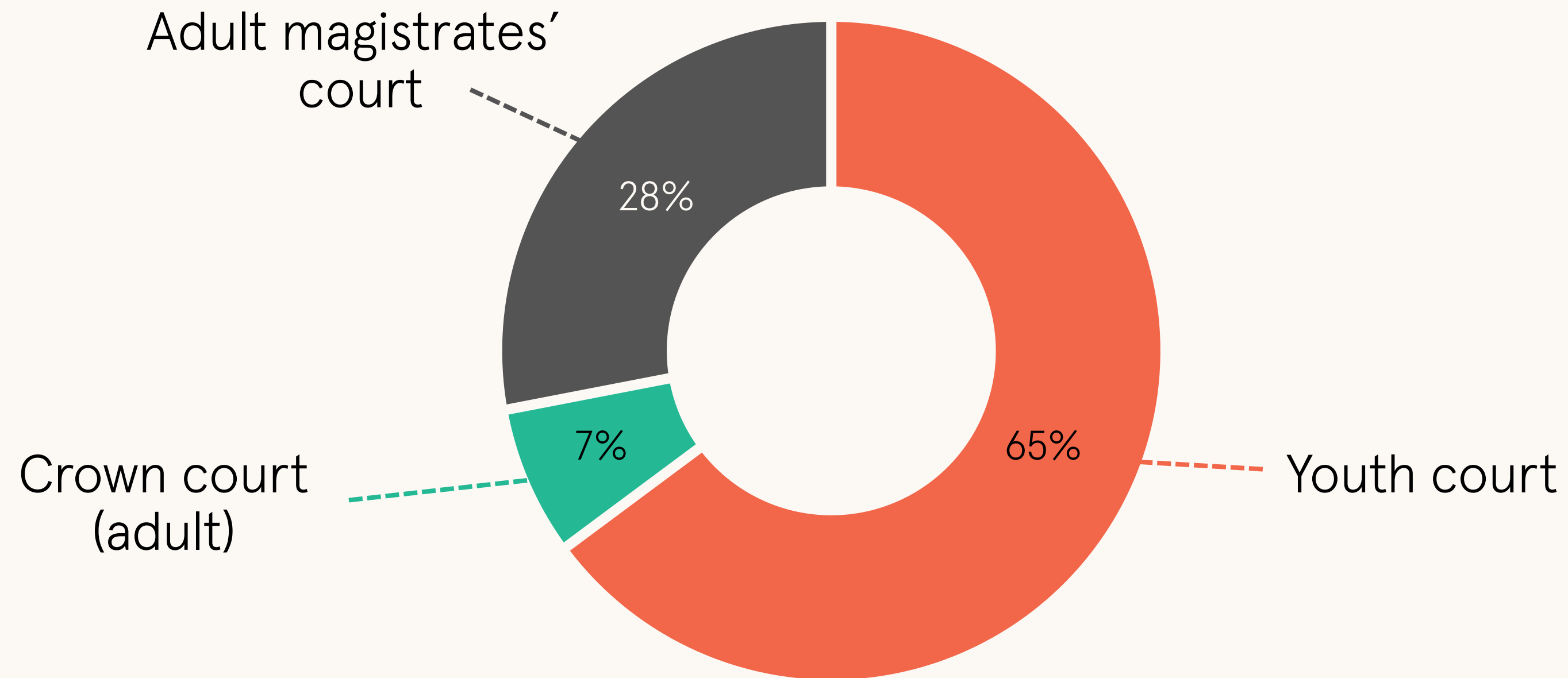
Top ten alleged offences of children remanded by the police in y/e June 2025



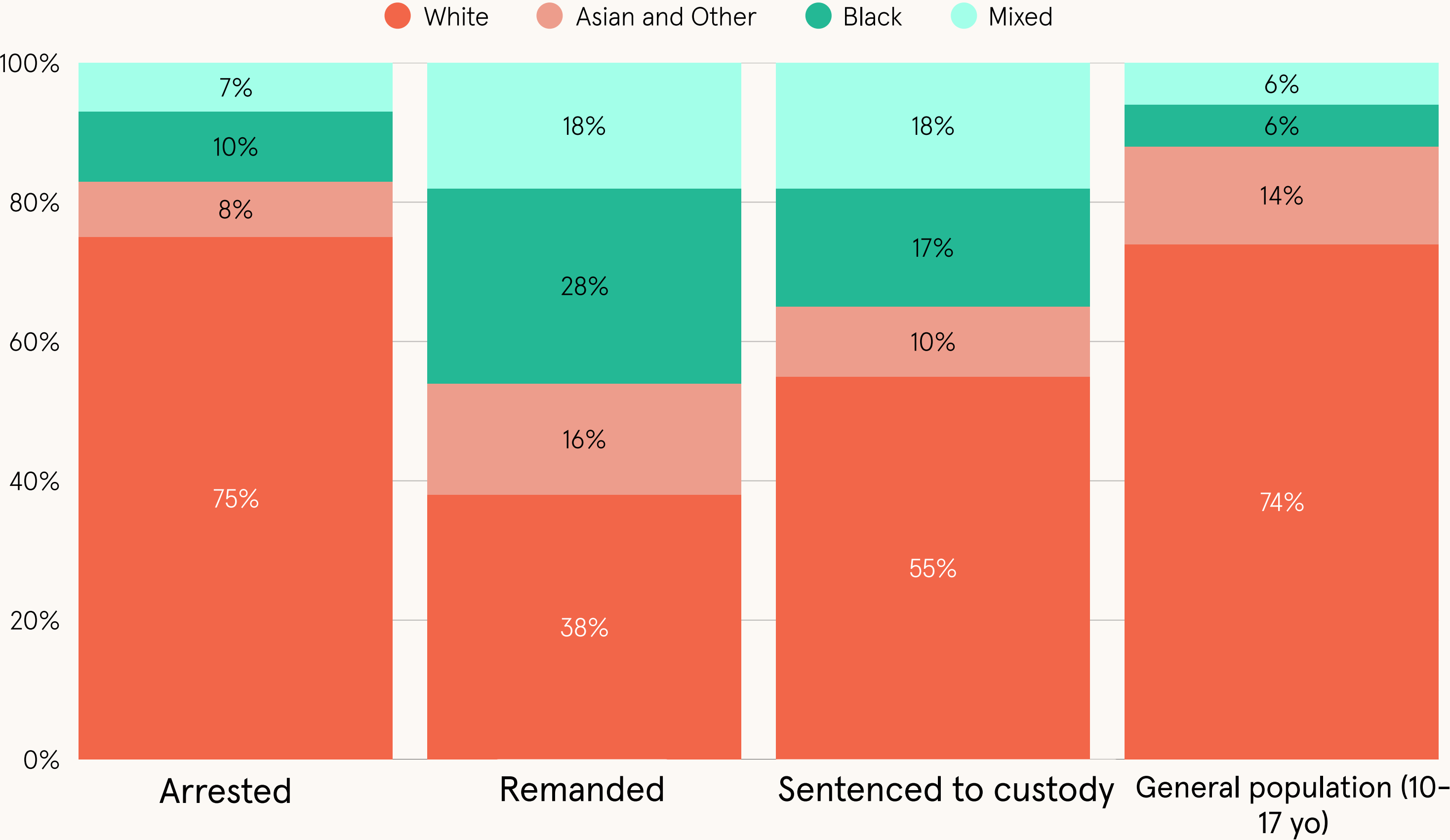
Alleged offences of children on remand y/e March 2024



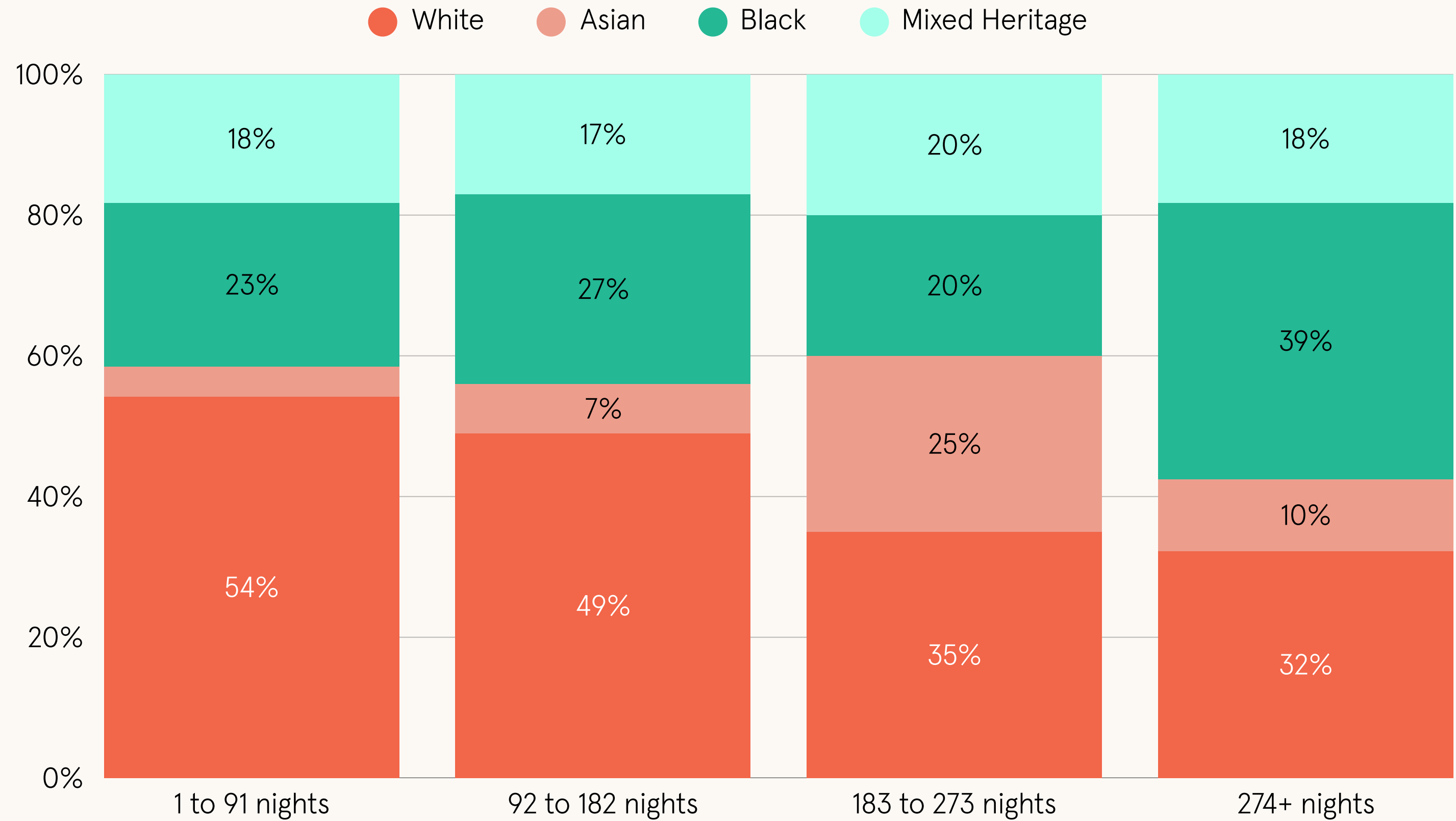
Where were remand decisions made in y/e Mar 2025?



Racial disproportionality y/e March 2025



Racial disproportionality in remand lengths y/e March 2025



Read our full data briefing:



In partnership with the Co-op Foundation

**Transform
Justice**



Foundation

The London Child Remand Project

July 2026

Ben Byrne – Director, LIIA

Bev Hendricks – Executive Director CLLF, Merton

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services

London's Problem with Child Remands



- One **third** of all children remanded in England and Wales come from London
- Of all children in custody in E&W, **43%** are on remand. Remand accounted for **63%** of London children in custody over the 2024-25 period.
- **74%** of London children who are remanded do not go on to get a custodial sentence
- Racial disproportionality is apparent across all remand data sets, with stark over-representation of Black children. **87%** of London children remanded are from Black and Global Majority backgrounds.
- **20%** of remands are less than a week - If a child can be bailed or remanded to LA on day seven; why can't they be bailed or remanded on day one?

(This does not include children pre and post charge in police custody)

The Opportunity



- **MoJ grant of £2.5m over 3 years** as a lever to address this problem as a region and deliver white paper commitment to **25% reduction in custodial remands**
- Project needs to address issues in all parts of our system: CJS, children's services and youth justice to achieve systems change
- Funding will enhance alternatives to custodial remand but will also focus on practice, relationships, and confidence and trust between partners
- Solutions will include placement alternatives (such as remand fostering) but must also work to ensure children can be safely supported with their families

What solutions are we proposing?



- **Alternative to Custody Placements:** Remand fostering, but also specialist accommodation – particularly for short remands (Building on the experience, lessons and successes of the LAP)
- **PACE:** Ensuring the right police decisions, but also the right provision
- **ISS/bail support:** sub-regional resource in London to enable better support at home / in community
- **Capacity for better practice at court around Bail:** responsive ‘on the day’ bail packages developed at pace, work with judiciary (and CPS) to build confidence, promotion of best practice principles - aligned with Youth Remand Concordat
- **Better specialist provision:** health and education support for bail packages
- **Remand reviews:** proactive work with courts, defence etc to reduce length of remands and seek alternatives

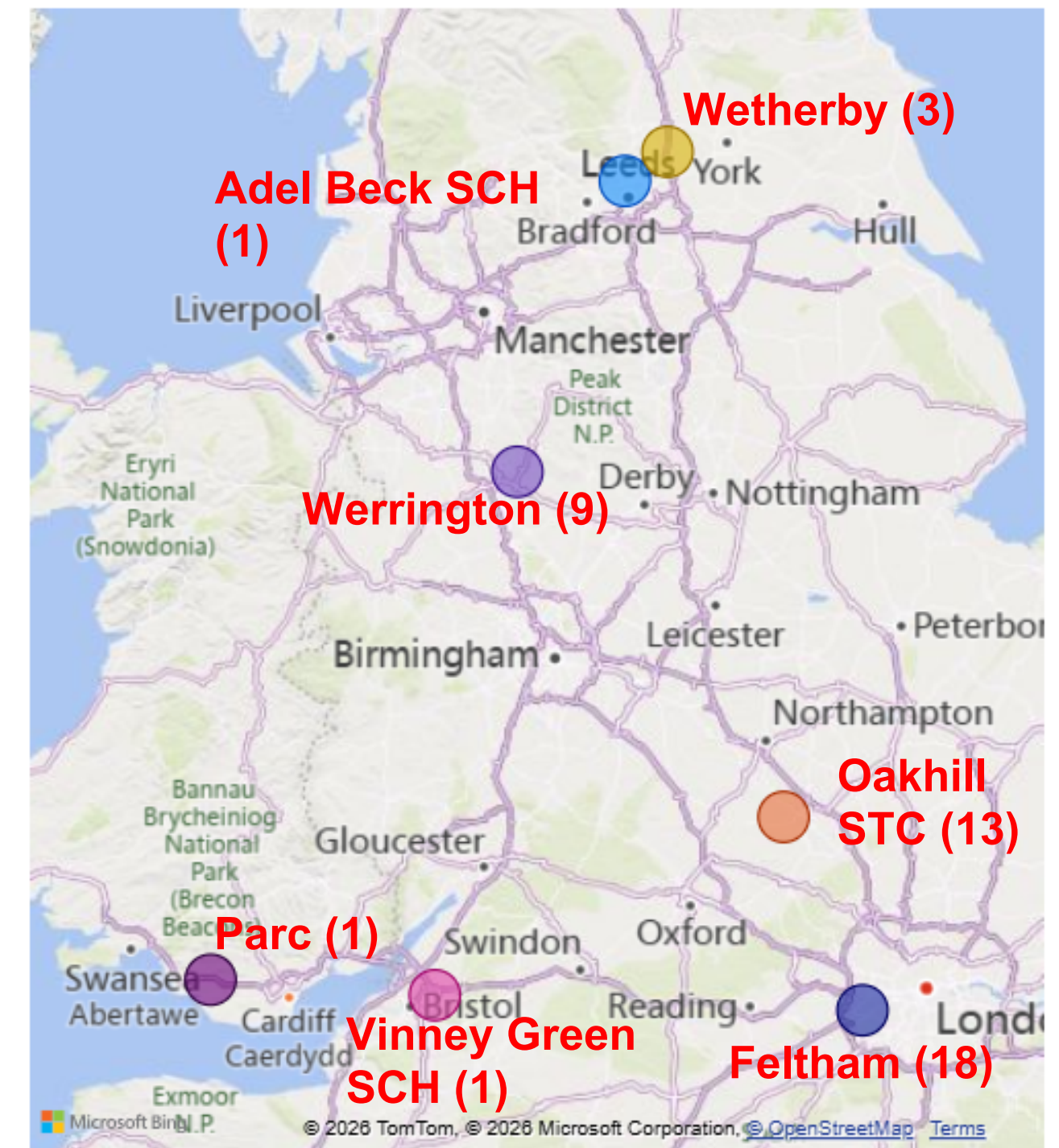
Observations from snapshot survey



- **47** London children remanded on 1st June 2026
- **15** children remanded for more than 6 months (4 were more than a year)
- Whilst Feltham is the most prevalent destination, the cohort are geographically spread with many at considerable distance
- Black children represented **47%** of custodial remands
- GBH with intent (11) the most common offence
- All offences leading to remand were serious and largely violence related

YDA

(excludes any children in hospital)



Timeline and Next steps



Year 1

Governance and regional oversight established

Mapping of YJS bail and remand service offers across London

Judicial/partner engagement

Remand data flow and dataset established

Test initial areas for investment: placements/ETE

Year 2

Commission new interventions / placements to respond to identified gaps and needs

Develop community services such as ISS and ETE options

Develop fostering activity in line with Fostering Hub and RCC work

Ongoing judicial /partner engagement

Year 3

Continue to deliver project and evaluate impact

Embed successful approaches

Consider sustainability of regionalised remand work

Joshua's experience



- Remanded to YOI (S18 GBH and weapon charge), bailed to LAP after 2 months
- Entered LAP as looked after child and NEET: evidence he had experienced exploitation and considerable childhood trauma
- Sought support for mental health needs due to depression exacerbated by custody
- Fully engaged in LAP: education, therapeutic support, YJS interventions, independent living skills
- Completed his 6-month placement and transitioned to supported accommodation with no reoffending
- Became a peer researcher with the university for the LAP evaluation
- Enrolled in college and is now studying construction
- Found not guilty at trial after 2 years on bail conditions.
- Expressed gratitude to the LAP for “giving me a second chance”.

Questions for discussion



- How do you feel the Child Remand Project can make the most difference to remand outcomes for London's children and ensure London is reducing unnecessary remands?
- What activity would you prioritise for the Child Remand Project (consider how this might address short / or longer-term remands)?
- How best can you and your agency contribute to reducing unnecessary child remands in London?
- How should previous learning inform our work?